Lack of Post Rail Accident Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

443. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no early warning system exists to alert all concerned in the event of rail accidents in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that long delays are there in providing medical assistance to passengers; and

(c) in what manner the South Central Railway propose to improve the post accident activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Detailed instructions on Accident Management have been issued in the Accident Manual of South Central Railway. In addition to this, the Railway launches periodical drives to counsel and educate the staff and conducts mock drills to keep the staff alert, to improve the post accident activities.

Attachment of More coaches to Ratnachal Express

444. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to attach more AC and 1st class bogies with Ratnachal Express in South Central Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that only one A.C. coach is attached to Ratnachal Express;

(c) what steps are proposed to enhance capacity of AC chair car in Ratnachal Express to meet growing demand; and

(d) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Ratnachal Express is running with one AC Chair car at present. An additional AC chair car was introduced from 1.10.96 but had to be withdrawn from 15.2.97 due to poor occupancy. Two additional second-class day coaches have been added to the train from 1.7.97.

New projects of Railways

445. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has defied cabinet ban to announce 18 new projects;

(b) if so, what are the names of the projects; and

(c) the reasons for banning to announce the new projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is no cabinet ban on Railway projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacant Posts in Railways

446. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise breakup of reserved posts for SC and ST lying vacant in the various zones of Railways, till date;

(b) whether the employees of various other categories have also been promoted in addition to the new recruitments made on some posts during the last three years, if so, year-wise and category-wise details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to clear the backlog in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.